

***** M.R.A.C. MEETING NOTICE FOR THURS. APRIL 11TH *****
 * April meeting will be as usual at MSOE, 1020 No. Broad- *
 * way, Room 1-B. Sus Musashi WB9BGJ will give a travelogue *
 * with slides of his recent trip to Japan. He will feature *
 * hams and hamming in Japan. ALSO NOMINATION OF OFFICERS. *

SQUIBS FROM THE PRESIDENT BY W9ATK

The past two years have been fun for me as your club president. Special thanks are due to Emmett, K9DD, who has provided us with some fine meeting programs. This has made the job of running the meetings much easier. Congratulations to second V.P. Dave, WA9POV, on his appointment to Milwaukee County Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL. I know we will all give Dave the support he will need in planning for potential emergencies thru the A.R.E.C. for the county. Moving on to bigger and better things Bob is now working with the Sheriff's Department Communications, best wishes from the club.

We were all saddened by the recent passing of Avis Halper, XYL of George, W9SUF. As many of you know George is a hot CW operator and has handled much traffic. Avis was well known to many members of families of service men as she would phone the messages to them. Avis gained many friendships thru these phone contacts. We will all miss Avis, a regular at the various Ham doings in the area.

Many of you know I am the secretary of the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters. I am proud of the manner that this organization of state-wide repeater groups operates. The way of handling the problems which arise is adult and civilized. It is great to see that this group of Hams will go out of their way to avoid conflicts which would have detrimental effects on amateur radio in general. The organization works closely with similar organizations in other states as well as national organizations. Much of the credit must go to the spark plug of this organization, Jim, K9ZYS.

A few months ago I attended a meeting of VHF Ritty enthusiasts. Being a RTTYer for over a decade and being active on VHF, here would be a great opportunity to solve some problems much the same way as the Repeater boys did, I thought. The meeting came off well, most of the active RTTY buffs were there as well as some others who had a stake in the proposed changes. The problem was the frequency of the net. Interference was great from distant Repeaters and interference was caused to users of adjacent frequencies. A new frequency was chosen which to all those present would not cause any harmful interference to anyone nor would any be received, it seemed. Well to make a long story short a couple fellows decided later that they didn't want to go along with the group decision and torpedoed the agreement. As it stands now the new RTTY frequency is on a Repeater Channel, adjacent to an occupied frequency just as before. Incidentally, the new frequency will not be of much use in the event of an emergency as the key stations will not be able to operate the two adjacent frequencies simultaneously. It would seem that to this observer that it would be in the best interests of all to sit back down at the table, come up with a solution that would be agreeable to all and stick to it.

SUNSHINE

When the doctor took off the cast after 7 weeks he found that W9RKP's bones were not healing properly. After a repair, Russ was put back into a cast. Russ' XYL had some surgery on her toes--but after the Valentine Party.

W9WVL had an operation at St. Mary's Hospital and was in intensive care (March 14th). George has been suffering from cancer problems for the last year.

EDITOR TO RETIRE

With the possibility of the Editor moving out of the area, it is necessary to also plan retiring from the Hamateur Chatter. As the move is not dictated for several months, the June issue will probably be the last one for this reporter. Anyone interested in carrying on, can easily do so because the mechanics is all set up and help will still be available for several more months. It is not necessary to type the copy, as this is done by a paid typist, or to fold or address the papers.

THE MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY CORPS IN REVIEW by BOB GOLDSTEIN K9KJT

The ARRL Emergency Corps, as it was first called, was formed by an announcement in September 1935 QST. At first simply a matter of volunteers signing up en masse in the Corps without provision for local direction, the AEC quickly attracted considerable favorable attention among amateurs. After its first big test in the 1936 floods, membership boomed until it was no longer possible to publish the membership list in QST. In 1937, as a result of the obvious need for local leadership and group preparedness plans felt in several communications emergencies, the new ARRL appointment of Emergency Coordinator was created. In 1945, with the post-war reactivation of the ARRL Emergency Corps, a new section-level appointment, that of Section Emergency Coordinator, was created. In 1950 the name was changed to the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps as a better indication of the coverage and intent of the organization. In 1963 AREC was designated as the Emergency Communications Division of the Amateur Radio Public Service Corps, to work with the Traffic Division (National Traffic System) to form a nationwide amateur radio public service communications facility.

After 14 years as Emergency Coordinator for Milwaukee County I find that other duties and requirements on my time forced my retirement as E.C., but not from AREC. It was with great pleasure that the S.E.C. (Sherm Carr W9NGT) and I announced the appointment of Dave Knaus WA9POV as the new E.C. last November. As most of you know, Dave has already displayed his knowledge and leadership abilities in this most important phase of amateur radio.

For those of you who are new to ham radio, I would like to describe what AREC is and especially what the Milwaukee AREC is all about. Although it is sponsored by ARRL, League membership is not required for registration. All amateurs, regardless of their personal affiliations, are urged to support this Emergency Corps of and by amateurs as amateurs for the purpose of getting prepared and keeping prepared to provide emergency communication for the public and the nation when, and if needed, in both peace and war. Registration in the AREC does not require possession of equipment designed especially for emergency use -- nor does possession of such equipment determine whether your membership shall be full or limited. A "Full" member is an amateur who takes a fully active part in local AREC activities; a "limited" member is one who for any reason cannot do so but nevertheless is in support of the group and will be available as his/her personal circumstances permit. Thus, there is a provision in the AREC for every amateur licensee.

Within the last decade the AREC has become very active in the Greater Milwaukee Area. However, its activity goes back as far as World War II. During the war years, when amateur operator privileges were suspended, those hams who weren't in service served their community by operating as the War Emergency Radio Service. Some of the hams active in WERS were Norman Barnes-President, Tom Gettleman-V.P., Herb Wareing, Charles Meyer, Tony Barczcz, Ted Hein, Jack Doyle and Ralph Koenig. They were restricted to operation in the five (5) meter band and had to build their own rigs. As a group project they designed and built a 5 meter transceiver that was battery powered. Records show that there were 22 of these units built and placed in government offices and buildings around the county and operated by hams during training nets and in the event of an actual emergency. They operated under the call sign WMFM, followed by a unit number.

(to be continued)

CHATTER

Jack Laing Life Member was inadvertently omitted from the donors list last issue. Ham license fees have gone up from \$9 to \$10 effective May 1st.

The group was saddened to hear of the passing of Dick Fox W9GPV on Saturday March 9th. He was a Charter member, a real gentleman and a bright spot in our net and meetings. We'll miss Dick and our sincere sympathies to Ruth.

The June 1st dinner-meeting has been finalized at the SARRES'SUPPER CLUB in Oshkosh. SARRES' is just north of Oshkosh city limits on Highway 45. Dinner will be served at 12:30 with the "Happy Hour" starting about 11:00. The fare will be chicken and ham with the trimmings served family style. Considering the unsettled food market, the committee compromised for a flat \$5 per person for a 50-60 group. Sarres' Supper Club had the misfortune of being hit twice by arson recently but is all remodeled now. Get your reservations to the chairman thru the Sunday (3985 Kc 9 AM) net. There is a tentative plan for the distaff contingent, sez W9ELY chairman, New members will receive their certificates at this meeting. The location again: 2 miles north of Highway 21 and 3 miles south of Highway 41 on Highway 45, west side of the street.

Here's a real coincidence: Bill W9ELY was on the way to a mail box to send the letter regarding the meeting to W9CTI when he heard Chet on 2 meters passing Oshkosh. Quick as a flash contact was made and an eyeball arranged with the letter hand delivered! W9RNZ is now an ex-9 and a W4JRY. His new address is 1755 Spruce Avenue, Winter Park, Fla. 32789. He reports into the Badger WX Net as skip has been good. He plans a trip up here to become a Grandparent and will have an HR2B. Anyone getting into the Orlando area has an invitation to stay over BUT...BYOB!

AREC AND EMERGENCY

March meeting (always on the 1st Tuesday of the month) had a large turnout with 27 present. It is reported that the Red Cross station W9IJT is nearly completely operational from 2 meters thru 80 meters with a full KW on the lower bands. The emergency power unit is working fine. Chief Operator WA9KRF appeals for more personnel to qualify as operators. This is a chance to learn and operate other gear and to be ready to serve this station in case of emergency. Service is the name of the game.

All new gear is under construction for the WX station. This includes auto-start, auto-stop, automated RTTY all remote controlled commercial gear being installed by W9NGT and WA9KEC. Sherm also reported that this year's SET exercises were very thin and the whole operation was due for an updating. A discussion as to the procedure and practice of the SET indicated that it should be more on a local level to simulate a real emergency.

AREC has acquired the old WB9ADX repeater and it will be installed at the Red Cross Building with the emergency equipment. The repeater plans are to continue 07/67 operation and carrier access with an option of tone access. This repeater will enable anyone with even low power to be net control. As it is now, the net controller does not have to be at the Red Cross station and anyone with reasonable power can take over and is urged to volunteer from their home station.

The 13 Annual MRAC Valentines Party was reported a very successful affair as usual. The food was delicious, the music excellent and the beer flowed freely as per the usual Moser's hospitality. There were door prizes galore with everyone getting one. The licensed hams got another one, so it pays to be a ham too! Thanks are due to the following donors: our local supply emporium, Amateur Electronic Supply, Radio Shack in West Allis, Hein Electric, St. Francis Savings & Loan, National Savings & Loan, 1st Federal Savings & Loan, Kohl's Foods and a bottle of refreshments from Elsie and George's WX9BAR. The Club also purchased \$100 worth of door prizes. Socially and financially the event was a success.

OZAUKEE RADIO CLUB had a FB demonstration and lecture on RTTY by WB9GVH and WA9AYR. They brought in a half-ton of gear to the meeting, stout fellows, thanks! Many plans are ahead for the Club's activities. Foremost soon is FD with W9LO as chairman again. Plans are proceeding with improving 37/97 operation with a duplexer. Too late to plan for a hamfest this year but the club is definitely going to put one on next year. Also plans are being discussed to have a booth at the Ozaukee County Fair. A search for a new permanent meeting place is bearing fruit with possible good news soon. The Sunday 1 o'clock net on 3940 Kc has been at a real low in participation of late. If a net controller does not show up, whoever is on please take a hold and call the net together. If nothing more, you can have a pleasant QSO with a fellow club member. The Ozaukee Club had been approached by the Cedarburg School System to present a 7-week orientation and demonstration course in Ham Radio. It has proved very popular with the youngsters and will extend into building simple kits, learning code and basic theory. Ed Rosenthal WA9WNG is conducting the program at the Range Line School. Also Cedarburg High School has a course for adults sponsored by M.A.T.C. call W9NHE.

YELLOW THUNDER RADIO CLUB in Baraboo is planning their 4th Annual Hamfest at the Dellview Hotel in Lake Delton on May 18th. Grand Prix is a Regency HR2B and you need not be present to win. Advance registration ticket \$1.50, with banquet \$5.50. Mail reservations to J.P. Anderson WB9EWR, 624--14th St., Baraboo, Wis., 53913. Program includes swapping, MARS, ARPSC, Repeater meetings, hidden xmtr hunt, ladies activities and evening entertainment. Y.T. gang was most active in the WNA QSO Party. Besides individual members, the club portable WB9FDZ/9 gave many county contracts. WB9ECO with second op WB9HTB gave 33 counties from an aero mobile piloted by Gary's dad. They tallied 427 contacts with each county a separate log.

WEST ALLIS A.R.C. has changed their MEETING NIGHT TO Wednesday thru April 24th to accommodate a camping group. F.D. plans are brewing elsewhere so A. Nonymous says, "WARAC beware!" As reported in the last issue, West Allis advanced three places in standing when the Novice score was discovered missing in the tally. The recount was published in QST.



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